

Bulletin

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, NY • DECEMBER 2011

A Salute to Longtime Members Rooney and Kaff

by Allan Dodds Frank

The deaths of Andy Rooney and Al Kaff cost the OPC two of its most beloved soldiers and senior longtime members.

When Kaff died October 25 and Rooney on November 4, the OPC lost more than a century's worth of knowledge and comradeship. Rooney, 92, joined the OPC 64 years ago, shortly after returning to New York from his service as an U.S. Army war correspondent in Europe for *Stars & Stripes*.

In his early years, Rooney, the writer, gave voice to some of the most prominent faces at CBS: Arthur Godfrey, Will Rogers Jr. and Harry Reasoner before becoming the reluctant on-air star at "60 Minutes" in 1978.

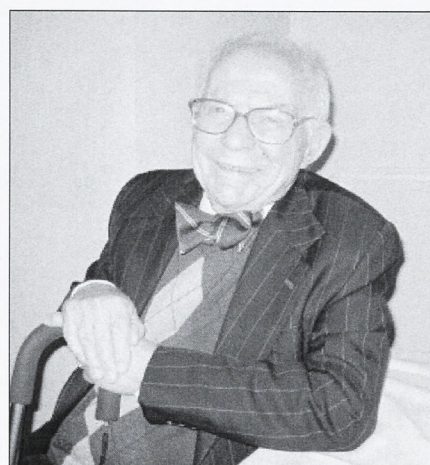
Kaff, 91, was modest about his contributions to the OPC as the *Bulletin's* "People" and "New Books" columnist. His stories ranged from covering the Tokyo Olympic Games to interviewing movie stars, Prime Ministers and dictators. Kaff worked the telephones and the Internet from his Connecticut home compiling news for his *Bulletin* columns. In a story about being a foreign correspondent written in 2009, Kaff recalled he was stationed in Taipei when he joined the OPC. Kaff wrote: "I thought...it would be sophisticated to say, 'I will be stopping at my club'."

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Andy Rooney joined the OPC in 1947. Allan Dodds Frank gave him the OPC President's Award in 2010. Rooney's obituary runs on page 4.



Al Kaff joined the OPC in 1962 and has contributed to the *Bulletin* since 1990. His obituary, which he wrote and updated, runs on page 2.

IMAX Movie Screening for OPC Members

EVENT PREVIEW: DECEMBER 15

by Sonya K. Fry

The OPC has been invited to a special advanced preview of *Mission Impossible 4: Ghost Protocol*, an IMAX film with an international theme. The story line goes like this: once the U.S. President suspects that the IMF is behind the bombing of the Kremlin he "disavows" the persons working at the IMF — the name of that operation is "Ghost Protocol." When the IMF is shut down, Ethan Hunt (Tom Cruise) and his team go rogue to clear their organization's name and to prevent another attack. To complicate matters further Ethan is forced to embark on this mission with a team of fellow IMF fugitives whose personal mo-



tives he does not fully understand.

On the technical side, some of the scenes were shot with IMAX cameras which will further immerse the audience in explosive action and vast scope of the film. One sequence has the protagonist scaling the Burj Khalifa Tower in Dubai.

The film preview on Thursday, December 15 is at the Loews Lincoln Square theater located at 1998 Broadway at 68 Street at 6:45 p.m. Rich Gelford, IMAX CEO, will welcome OPC members and guests. IMAX will host a Reception after the film in the Lobby.

Reservations are essential. RSVP to the OPC 212-626-9220 or e-mail sonya@opcofamerica.org.

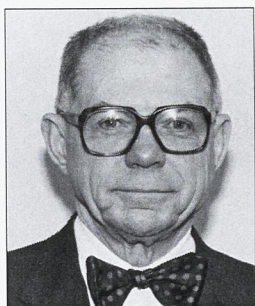
Beloved OPC Columnist and Journalist, Al Kaff Dies at 91

by Al Kaff

Albert E. Kaff, 91, died of a heart attack at St. Vincent's Hospital in Bridgeport, Connecticut, at 12:15 p.m. on Tuesday, October 25. He was a longtime foreign correspondent and vice president of United Press International and later a public relations writer for Cornell University. He had been an OPC member since 1962 and was a longtime contributor to OPC publications, notably the "People" and "New Books" columnist for the monthly newsletter, the *Bulletin* and the website. There will be no memorial, viewing or service. Gifts should be made to the Salvation Army. He will be buried in his birthplace, Atchison, Kansas.

He worked for UPI for 33 years, including 29 years in Asia. Retiring from the wire service in 1985, he spent the next seven years on the staff of the Cornell University News Service in Ithaca, New York.

Kaff was born on June 14, 1920, in Atchison, Kansas. He graduated in 1942 from the University of Colorado with a B.A. in economics. While a university student, he was a summer



reporter for the *Atchison Daily Globe* in Kansas. During World War II, he served as a private first class in a U.S. Army Air Corps radar battalion in New Guinea, the Dutch East Indies, Philippines and, after Japan's surrender, in Korea with the U.S. 24th Corps.

Called back into military service in 1950, this time in the U.S. Army Infantry as a sergeant first class, he served as editor of the 45th Division News, supervising a staff of 10 enlisted men who were reporters, photographers and cartoonists. The weekly newspaper was published in Louisiana; Hokkaido, Japan's northern island; and on the front in Korea, where Kaff received the Bronze Star for meritorious service.

Between World War II and the Korean War, Kaff was a reporter for *The Ponca City News* in Oklahoma and *The Daily Oklahoman* in Oklahoma City. After Korean War military service, he was discharged from the Army in Tokyo in 1952 and joined United Press, serving as a war correspondent during the last year of the Korean conflict and the first year of the Korean truce.

He then worked for the wire service as a correspondent, news editor and bureau manager in Tokyo, Saigon, Taipei, Manila and Hong Kong. He covered conflicts in Indochina in the late 1950s that led to the Vietnam War, the Communist-Nationalist Chinese battles at Quemoy and Matsu in the Taiwan Strait, Japan's development into a world economic power, and Summer and Winter Olympic Games in Japan.

While based in Asia, Kaff interviewed President Syngman Rhee of South Korea, President Ngo Dinh Diem of South Vietnam, President Ho Chi Minh of North Vietnam (by cable), President Chiang Kai-shek of Nationalist China, President Diosdado Macapagal of the Philippines, Prime Minister Eisaku Sato of Japan and President Mohammad Zia ul-Haq of Pakistan.

From 1975 to 1978, Kaff was UPI's personnel director based in New York City. From 1978 to 1984, he served as vice president and general manager of the company's Asia-Pacific Division, directing the company's news, photo and broadcasting operations in an area that extended from Japan to Australia to

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A Look Back at 2011 and What Lies Ahead for the OPC

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

We've had a difficult month at the Overseas Press Club and this is a sad manner for me to begin my monthly President's letters. But we have lost two of the great lights of our profession and certainly of our institution — **Al Kaff**, who nearly made it to the half century mark as an OPC member (he joined in 1962 when I was just graduating from high school) and **Andy Rooney**, who we were so fortunate to have been able to honor two years ago with the President's Award for Lifetime Achievement. You will find tributes to both esteemed gentlemen in the pages of this newsletter and on our website opcofamerica.org, where I urge every reader to contribute a sentence or more — reminiscences of two giants of our profession and our organization.

This, my first President's letter, is in fact a posthumous gift to Al, one of the great pillars of the OPC and, unquestionably the OPC *Bulletin*, whose pages he has owned for so long. Since virtually my first day in office, Al had been after me to pen a letter for each issue, as do many of my fellow presidents at our sister (or brother) organizations around the world. On August 24, in an envelope carefully hand-addressed, was a copy of the letter from Anna Healy Fenton, my esteemed counterpart at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Hong Kong. It arrived at the clubhouse at the very moment I was arriving in Moscow, the first leg of a six-week expedition, through Irkutsk in Siberia, onto the Trans-Mongolian Railway into Mongolia, jumping off in Ulaanbaatar, traveling that nation for three weeks, then back on the train to China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, winding up in Beijing.

Among the many other discoveries made by myself and my wife, Pamela, was a central one — that in this second decade of the 21st century, we are all joined, through electronics,

on a sophistication and scale I could never have imagined 37 years ago, as I arrived in Phnom Penh, lugging my Olivetti Lettera 32, **Sydney Schanberg** meeting me at planeside and shouting, "run for it dammit, they're shelling the airport." Al Kaff was just winding up his stint of 29 years as a correspondent in Asia, while Andy Rooney was still four years away from his 33-year run on a CBS News broadcast called "60 Minutes."

I've given a lot of thought to the nature of this letter to our members, but even more to my legacy — what I would like to leave for our organization. My goal is to help reflect who we are, what our careers have meant to all of us and, of course, our readers to whom we owe our ultimate allegiance. So our events and *Bulletin* should reflect the excitement, vigor and color that will take our members, for an hour or two, and transport them to that world abroad that we still treasure as part of our DNA.

In the past year we can look back at a number of milestones. The OPC Foundation added two scholarships in memory of a pair of our most distinguished members, **Jerry Flint** and **Walter Cronkite**. OPC member **Charlie Sennott** gave a stirring address at the scholarship luncheon.

We've hosted a number of remarkable book nights including ones with journalism's unique treasure **Roy Rowan**; a hilarious evening of good cheer with authors **P.J. O'Rourke** and **Chris Buckley**; and a bittersweet appearance by the legendary war photographer **Tim Hetherington** and co-producer of their Academy Award-nominated document "Restrepo," **Sebastian Junger**. Bittersweet because the death of Tim and fellow photographer **Chris Hondros** in the Libyan uprising.

Tim was to have served as presenter at our 2011 awards gala. Instead, **Scott Anderson** led us in a tribute on that emotional evening in April dedicated to their memory. That

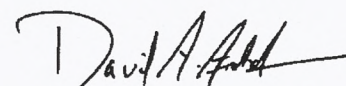
same evening marked the official entry of the OPC into the 21st century as we had six new online award categories. With 26 awards, this was the largest number of prizes ever presented by the OPC and, thanks to her superb pacing and professionalism, CBS "60 Minutes" correspondent **Lesley Stahl**, among the most riveting evenings as well.

Finally, no reflections on the past year would be complete without paying tribute to the core work of our Freedom of the Press Committee, newly revitalized under the leadership of the indefatigable **Larry Martz**, who has monitored closely the entire process of the Arab Spring as it has unfolded and been chronicled by a host of our fellow OPC members.

The next year promises no less excitement and no fewer challenges. Global Parachute, the web project designed to provide an unprecedented database and resource for all foreign correspondents as they parachute into the void, and underwritten by a grant from the Ford Foundation, will launch in early spring of 2012. It's open for account requests at opcglobalparachute.org.

Its launch will be well timed to coincide with our 2012 awards gala, again at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, on April 25. Save the date! Still, with the global economy teetering uneasily on a succession of ever more vertiginous ledges, we will need all your support to attract the kind of sponsors that will enable us to carry forward our work and our ever expanding agenda in the year to come.

Finally, to all our members, their families and friends, the happiest of holidays and a healthy, safe and productive New Year!



Articles on these events are posted at opcofamerica.org. Videos are posted at youtube.com/opcofamerica

A Few Recollections of Journalist Andy Rooney

by Allan Dodds Frank

Of all the bon mots from Andy Rooney, few had more resonance for his fellow members of the Overseas Press Club of America than this line from his last “60 Minutes” appearance. “A writer’s job is to tell the truth.”

Rooney continued: “I believe that if all the truth were known about everything in the world, it would be a better place to live.”

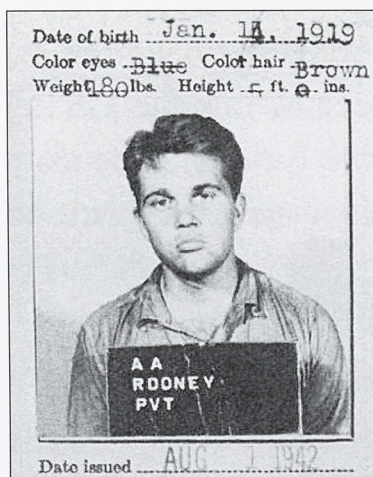
For 70 years as a writer, Andy Rooney’s genius was putting the thoughts and petty gripes and pet peeves of everyman into words. While centered on his CBS’ “60 Minutes” persona, Rooney’s vast body of work, including 16 books, shows he was much more than a lucky curmudgeon who could write and talk on the box.

When I had the honor to bestow the President’s Award on Rooney in April 2010, he generously agreed to be interviewed on camera — behind that fabled desk of his own making — about his career as a foreign correspondent beginning with the U.S. Army’s 17th Field Artillery Division. (Video is at youtube.com/opcofamerica.)

Even among our OPC crowd, not everyone was aware of Rooney’s early days when he quickly became the accomplished 25-year-old reporter among the giants of World War II correspondents based in Great Britain. An Albany, New York native, Rooney had been an aspiring football player at Colgate University when as a junior, he was drafted. Although he had never been a reporter, Rooney claimed he was and got a job with *Stars & Stripes*, the military newspaper that had millions of readers in the Army and was reprinted by U.S. newspapers. Rooney recalled going to battle with Allied Forces.

“They would let us know there was going to be a raid,” Rooney remembered. “And **Homer Bigart** — a great *New York Herald Tribune* writer, **Gladwin Hill** — *The New York Times*, and Walter Cronkite (United Press) and I would get on a train. We would go out to First Army headquarters and they would take us to different bases. And we would each do a story from one of the bases. Then we would get together, come back into London, write our stories and they would be published the next day. It was great.”

In those days, correspondents congregated at what Rooney remembered as “a great little spot off Fleet Street — the Lamb & the



Lark.... There were always eight or 10 of us telling stories.”

One of the first lessons Rooney learned as a rookie reporter was: “It was vitally important to say where someone was from. I learned that from a couple of good reporters who were editors at the *Stars & Stripes*. You always got the name of the hometown.”

Throughout his career as an “essayist” which included 1,097 on-air commentaries for “60 Minutes,” Rooney’s wartime experiences profoundly influenced his thinking. He was part of a group of about 25 correspondents assigned to the front

with Allied Forces. “Each day we would go with a different division. We did not gang up much. As a division pushed forward, we moved with them.”

Rooney was along for the ride during the D-Day Invasion of France; he was airborne for raids into Germany and he was one of the first U.S. reporters inside a German concentration camp.

“I was scared every day,” said Rooney. “There was never a day when you could not have been killed. Yes, I was frightened to death. I think everyone was.”

He remembered: “I saw a lot of bodies.”

Listening to Rooney’s lament on CBS marking the 50th Anniversary of D-Day should be required for all journalism students. A snippet is in the OPC tribute in which Rooney talks about how there were no photographs taken on the beach that he was on that day. “All the pictures are in my memory,” he said. About the corpses, “I remember their boots — all so much the same — on boys all so different.”

“War,” Rooney told us, “is unnecessary and foolish.”

Rooney joined the OPC in 1947 when he went to work in New York as a writer for CBS. He attended OPC Christmas parties and in 1994, at a memorable luncheon marking D-Day, Rooney and Walter Cronkite told stories in the Grand Hyatt ballroom, right after Cronkite had stuffed himself into his World War II correspondent’s uniform.

His belief in the power of words and faith in journalism to influence the course of human events was steadfast. As he instructed us: “I think it important for reporters to be everywhere so they can see what things are really like...and if you are a reporter, going to the front is where you go to get the story... There is nothing too gruesome to tell.”



Andy Rooney in the U.S. Army, 1942.



PEOPLE...a tribute to Al Kaff

GORDON CURRIE/BILL SHINN

The following items in the "People" column are tributes that members and journalism colleagues sent in the days following the announcement of Al Kaff's death. The OPC will continue to miss him on these pages and hope — even though a show of this kind would make him blush — that it's a fitting tribute.

Jacqueline Albert Simon, OPC treasurer: I remembered last night Al's special kindness to me after we lost my husband Pierre and Al thought he should put it in the *Bulletin*. With all his professionalism, he kept his humanity in his mind as well as in his heart.

David M. Alpern, OPC member: I appreciated coverage he gave to all our efforts. Will work a quote or two from his 2009 OPC piece into a tribute on our weekend radio and podcast program. As quoted on a recent segment on "For Your Ears Only": "Sometimes I thought I did not make my mark as a foreign correspondent because the CIA never once asked me for information." That was a wry retrospective by Albert Kaff on a far-ranging journalistic career that spanned nearly seven decades, many in Asia for United Press International, and lately covering the professional and personal milestones of other journalists for the OPC monthly *Bulletin*.

Don Becker: Diana Kaff, Al's wife of 51 years, gave me the sad news over the telephone this morning. Diana said a cremation was planned and the ashes were to be taken to Kansas, where Al was born and

raised. Diana said Al did not want a funeral. I met Al 50 years ago and he was ever a great and caring man and Unipresser. I talked with Al on the telephone just a week ago and he sounded as chipper and spirited as ever as we planned to get together with our wives for next week. Al made many friends and not a single enemy as befits a man who spoke ill of no one.

George Bookman, OPC member: Al Kaff was an amazing person — such energy and dedication right to the end. He was a terrific journalist and devoted Club member and made a contribution to OPC that really cemented it as a club. We are what we are thanks in large part to Al Kaff.

Jack Casserly, OPC member: Al Kaff was one of the nicest guys that I ever met — from Korea to New York. There were many other fine facets to Al — searching us out wherever we went in the world — but Al will always be remembered best for his unhesitating kindness.

Sibby Christensen, Bulletin editor from 1963 to 1970 and OPC member: Al Kaff already was an established contributor to the OPC *Bulletin* when I arrived in 1963 as its editor, so he must have been its longest-serving correspondent, ever. Along with Al, who sent me regular updates from Tokyo for what was called "Overseas Ticker," there were many of his colleague-contributors who were vital links between overseas reporters and Manhattan-based OPC members. Among them were Bob Tuchman from London; Bernard Redmont from Paris; his son, Dennis — later one of my AP colleagues — from Rio and Rome; and Welles Han-



Al and Diana Kaff at the Japan Hands Reunion at the OPC, March 2010.

gen from Hong Kong. (A contribution from Hangen arrived at my desk even as we were hearing news about his disappearance in Cambodia.) Al and all the others had a lot to do with establishing OPC's credibility and prestige.

Jim Colligan, OPC member: Al Kaff, journalist and gentleman as I knew him in Tokyo and in New York. His smile was the expression I remember. A man who seemed more interested in others than himself, an impression attested to by his dedication to accounts of journalists around the world in his OPC *Bulletin* columns. Rest in peace, Al. Shower a bit of your graciousness on me.

Bob Dowling, OPC member: In an age of Ego First Journalism, Al stayed in the background and did his chosen job so well you expected him to go on forever — a stolid example of what should be the true nature of our business.

Boots Duque, OPC office assistant: All these years, we always dreaded — even just the thought of it — when the time does come when Al Kaff would leave us forever. He

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(Continued From Page 5)

was beloved and very valuable in the Club. He loved the OPC and showed it ever since he became a member in October 1962. He shared all his vast journalistic knowledge and experiences whole-heartedly with the OPC. He was the OPC *Bulletin* and the website. His professionalism was reflected in his work. It was refreshing to have a colleague who was diligent professionally and who was truly sincere when he asked you about your family, how you celebrated the holidays, weekends, etc.



Bob Elegant, OPC member: We met in Korea and had been on good terms since then. The first thing you could count on regarding Al was that he was always accurate and dependable. Of course, weren't we all! It was impossible to have a serious fracas with Al, not because he was in any way pliant or complacent, but because he was so straightforward and companionable. We have lost one who was by no means a typical correspondent, but rather wholly atypical — a splendidly helpful, as well as entirely unflappable.



Fred Ferguson, OPC member: In the 20-odd years I worked with Al and knew Diana they were charming companions and friends. Al was proud of his experiences and recalled events now so often forgotten. I remember in particular his description of the fall of Dien Bien Phu. As a former editor of the OPC *Bulletin*, I believe he carried the people column to the point at which it was essential reading for many outside the OPC as well as for members.



Allan Dodds Frank, OPC President 2008-2010: For many members of the OPC, Al Kaff was its voice, its personification through the pages of the *Bulletin*, which he loved writing and editing and we all loved reading.

Al's affection for the news busi-



Al Kaff meets Princess Margaret as his wife Diana looks on. Lord Snowdon, the late princess's first husband, is in the background.

ness — especially reporting from abroad — always came through in his missives connecting us with one another. He noted the big events in the world of journalism and the small individual achievements that actually mattered more to each of us, never more so when the pat on the back from Al was for you. Not a book by a member came out without a serious mention by way of a thoughtful review from Al.

His dedication to the OPC was boundless and he put in untold hours expressing his love for the profession and for us. He knew how much we all appreciated him, but he was so shy of the spotlight that we had to trick him to come to the OPC to get a public tribute.



Murray Fromson, OPC member: Al Kaff was like a shadow to me. We first met in 1951 when he showed up in Korea as an information guru of the Oklahoma 45th National Guard Division and I was a combat correspondent in Korea for the *Pacific Stars & Stripes*. I was in Panmunjom, covering the armistice talks and there was Al.

Many of us descended on Kojedo, the island on the southern tip of Korea, where several hundred Chinese and Korean prisoners of war were captives and, in turn, had kidnapped the U.S. Army commandant of the POW lockup. Dozens of re-

porters were there and so was Al. Subsequently, an internship with the AP turned into a staff job for me and working for United Press, there was Al. By then our friendship turned into a competitive relationship. We collided in Japan. At the Foreign Correspondents' Club on Shimbun Alley, slurping martinis at Jimmy's bar, there was Al. On the road from there, be it covering the shoot-out at the Nationalist Chinese outposts on Taiwan's islands of Quemoy and Matsu, I appeared for an interview with Chiang Ka-shek. I slapped my forehead. God, there was Al, once again. So it went in Hong Kong, the Philippines, of course, the long drawn-out conflicts in Vietnam and Cambodia.

When I was the CBS News' Moscow correspondent covering the U.S.S.R. and then the anti-war movement emerging over Vietnam, I lost touch with Al but not completely. To my astonishment, we met again when he was at Cornell University and our son was in the M.A. program there. Al and I managed to keep abreast of OPC activities. But it was the telephone and e-mail that solidified a friendship of more than half a century, always with a smile.



Sonya Fry, OPC Executive Director: I was in Jerusalem when I heard the news of Al's death. It was terrible news in a day that already

was filled with emotion beginning in the morning in Bethlehem and ending in the afternoon at the Holocaust Museum Yad Vashem.

The OPC will miss Al terribly because he was the heart and soul of the Club. In true Al style and commitment he wrote his own obituary a few years ago. He wanted us to be prepared. He was the consummate journalist asking the probing questions and proud to turn in his copy on time. There were days when we finished editing the *Bulletin* in the morning and Al's copy would come in for the next month within hours.

We shall miss his gentlemanly manner, his commitment to journalism, his correct copy and his meeting his deadlines. You could always count on Al — always.

Nancy Hartzenbusch, OPC member: Henry and I overlapped with Al and Diana in Manila, Tokyo and Hong Kong. Over the years one was assigned, the other followed. It was a mutually respectful, admiring and friendly relationship between the two AP and UPI chiefs of bureau. Al was a kind, decent grounded man, comfortable in his own skin. He was a reliable and a solid journalist of the old school. A loyal friend who had no enemies. Ah, that we were as he.

P.J. Hickman: Al was the first American correspondent I met at the beginning of my USIA Foreign Service career in 1957. He was the UP Saigon correspondent. He left only a few months after I showed up, and was replaced by **Dale Brix**. Both serious journalists and good friends.

Linda Goetz Holmes, OPC member: Al Kaff was so remarkable that I can't imagine the OPC, or the "People" column, without him. Al must have had the greatest Rolodex in the world, and the widest net of sources; because his column in the monthly OPC *Bulletin* was truly

awesome, and it made for such fascinating reading. I always marveled at the worldwide scope of his monthly tidbits. To say I will miss his red bow tie and his columns is the understatement of the century.

William J. Holstein, OPC President 1994-1996, and current OPC Foundation President: Al and Diana touched my life at several key moments in my career. When I was a young UPI correspondent in the urbane capital of Lansing, Michigan, I decided I wanted to become a foreign correspondent. I was instructed to write a letter to that effect to **H.L. Stevenson, Dale Johns** and Al Kaff. I don't know what precise role Al played, but I soon got the call. Come to New York, young man. We'll train you. Then when I got the big break and transferred to Hong Kong in 1979, Al was vice president of UPI/Asia. My wife Cathy was so nervous that she couldn't leave the hotel room for weeks. Al and his wife, Diana, were so helpful in trying to make Cathy feel at home. Eventually, she responded to treatment and came to love Hong Kong. Al had such deep knowledge of Asia and had equally deep relationships with Japanese, Koreans, Hong Kong Chinese, Taiwanese and others. He had the ability to reach across cultural barriers and develop business relationships and friendships. He was the quintessential Old Asia Hand.

Bob Kaylor: Al was a professional through and through, with an encyclopedic recall of the events he'd covered and the people he'd encountered along the way. And in years working with him in Asia and New York in the rough-and-tumble of the wire service world, I never heard him say an unkind word about anyone.

Don Kirk, OPC member: Very sorry to hear about Al's passing —

first met him in Tokyo in 1965, knew him when I was there with ChiTrib in early '70s and again in mid-80s at Cornell, where he was a PR person, and talked to him on the phone quite often since. An incredibly kind and decent individual, a member of the vestry of his church, he kept up with everyone to the end through his outpourings in the OPC *Bulletin*, where he plugged achievements, books, wrote the obits, etc. Oh yes, he was also a correspondent in Saigon — in the very early days, late 1950s, I think, after having served as an army sergeant in the Korean War and then correspondent for UP in pre-UPI days in Korea.

Edie Lederer, OPC member: Al Kaff had a lifelong love affair with the news business, and he died with his "boots" on — writing for the OPC *Bulletin* until his last days at age 91.

I first met Al in Hong Kong in 1978 when he was running Asia for UPI and I was working for AP. Although AP and UPI were competitors at that time, Al and I became friends. Our offices were in the same building, New Mercury House, and we were both members of the Foreign Correspondents' Club.

After Al retired from UPI, he worked for the news service at Cornell University. Somehow, he discovered that I was a Cornell graduate. He tracked me down and wrote a story about my career as a foreign correspondent, leading to my reconnection with my alma mater.

Al lived through the golden age of foreign correspondents and what a career he had — covering wars, clashes between the Nationalist and Communist Chinese and the Olympics in Japan, getting a rare interview with Marlon Brando in a taxi and even dancing with Imelda Marcos! And how many journalists are still published in their ninth decade, let alone their seventh and eighth?

A gentleman to the end, Al was

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Diana Kaff looks on while Al finishes a story.

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a great supporter of women like me who were trying to break into that all-male club. I am forever grateful for his friendship, for his support and for his devotion to our profession.

Mike Malloy: Al Kaff had more friends than anyone I know. And a fine journalist, too. He had a long life and a good one, active and in touch with the world right into his 90s.

Ted Marks: Al Kaff was a wonderful person and an excellent reporter, who knew the news business inside and out. I worked with him in Tokyo, Hong Kong and New York, and he was always a very, very dedicated Unipresser. He kept many of us in touch with old colleagues through his enthusiastic reporting on the news business, both in Asia and in New York where he was a bulwark at the OPC. He was also a key member of the FCC of Japan where he was a former president.

Larry Martz, OPC Freedom of the Press Committee Chairman and President from 2000-2002: Al Kaff was tireless, loyal, reliable, and truly indispensable. When I was president of the Club, I prayed regularly

for his continued health; I knew I wouldn't have a clue what to do if something happened to him.

Rosalind Massow, OPC member: We will miss Al Kaff's news filled columns on OPCers — the happy events in their lives and their journalistic triumphs. His column was an integral part of the *Bulletin*, but as a person he was our treasure.

Kevin McDermott: Al was one of the good guys, and loved the Club and its mission. Now that he's gone, we'll really know how much he contributed to the organization.

Richard Pyle: Al Kaff was one of the great gentlemen of modern journalism. His professionalism and appreciation for our craft, and his respect for all the people who practice it, was always apparent. He spent his life in the most competitive branch of journalism, yet understood that all who shared that experience were special kind of a sort, and collectively we knew something about journalism that those who hadn't worked for wire services did not know.

When I was working on an AP story about a new effort to solve the mystery of Amelia Earhart, Al retrieved an interesting vignette from his own past: When the pioneering pilot known as "Lady Lindy" visited her home town of Atchison, Kansas in 1936, Al Kaff, age 16, was a member of the high school marching band in the big parade.

Ronda Robinson, OPC member: I'm so sorry to hear about Al. He was a good friend and mentor, not to mention an amazingly prolific

writer. My condolences to his family.

Roy Rowan, OPC member: I first met Al in Korea covering the war. He was a mild, most pleasant man, but a terrific reporter. I came to know him much better in Hong Kong during the 1970's, and made the mistake of running against him for president of the Foreign Correspondents' Club there. The election wasn't even close. He clobbered me.

He never became president of the OPC, but he held the club's most important job, keeping the membership informed about where everyone was and what everyone was doing. His People column, I believe, it is why so many of our far-flung colleagues joined. It was the "family" letter of the organization, the first thing we all read in the *Bulletin*. I don't know any better way to put it. Al was just a great friend. I will miss him, bow tie and all.

Leonard Saffir, OPC member: Whenever Al and I talked we reminisced about the Far East, particularly Tokyo. Based in Tokyo, I worked for International News Service, Al with United Press. Soon UP added an I to its name and became United Press International or UPI, the I for its takeover of INS. Al will be missed by many and never forgotten as an exceptional journalist and outstanding human being.

Moana McGlaughlin Tregaskis, OPC member: We all have lost a fine journalist, never wavering in his depth of research. Al checked his facts. He was kind and wise, and an inspiration to new journalists. I am sorry to lose a revered member of the OPC and dear friend.

Aimee Vitrak, Bulletin editor: Al had more vim and vigor than most people of any age. We spoke on the telephone only a few times, all of



At the OPC Japan Hands Reunion, Al Kaff and *Bulletin* editor Aimee Vitrak.

which were brief calls but it was in our e-mail correspondence where he rarely was at a loss for words.

Some things that I will miss in his monthly filing of the People and New Book columns:

- He loathed 8 page issues. Worse still were the dreaded combined issues. He'd argue every month for a 12-page, preferably 16-page, issue. He never, ever let this topic slide.

- His emails became less chatty after a heart attack in December 2009, but he continued to write 6-8000 words and filed his columns at the end of each week "just in case."

- Decades ago, the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan voted to add an apostrophe at the end of "Correspondents." Al, then an active member of the FCC, must have voted against this apostrophe because in every column he filed, he refused to add the apostrophe, and FCC was mentioned in every issue at least once.

- He had a lot of friends and in each column, he'd include personal anecdotes and exchanges. If we cut these items for space, these same missives would appear in the following issue and we knew if we cut them a second time, they would wind up in the next issue.

- He gave two spaces after each period from the typewriter days.

- He ended each column with "-30-," an end-of-article expression my J-school neglected to teach me.

We met only once at the Japan Hands Reunion in March 2010. He and Diana held court at a table to the left of the room while friends came over to say hello. It's strange when you become friends with someone through e-mail. When the e-mail

stops, you can try to convince yourself that e-mail is being blocked or trapped by a spam filter. It's been more than three weeks now without word from Al and as we assemble the December *Bulletin*, I can no longer pretend that his e-mail announcing the arrival of yet another monthly column will arrive.



Tracy Wood: I worked with Al in Hong Kong after I left Vietnam. He posted [on the Vietnam Old Hacks Google groups] several times about his UPI assignment in Saigon in the 1950s. Members of the OPC also know how dedicated he was to chronicling the work of foreign correspondents. And most of all, he was a very nice guy.



Bill Wright, OPC member: Al not only coached me through my early awkward time in UPI's Tokyo bureau but he worked with **Bob Miller** in Honolulu so I could send my bride and adopted daughter there to get U.S. citizenship, a loophole in immigration law. He would do things like that — way beyond the call of duty.

Memorial donations made in Albert Kaff's name can be sent to: Salvation Army, 30 Elm Street, Bridgeport, CT 06601

PRESS FREEDOM

MOSCOW: Mikhail Beketov, a muckraking Russian journalist who was nearly beaten to death in an unsolved attack, was among 10 journalists named on October 31 to receive an annual award for excellence in print journalism from Prime Minister Vladimir Putin. Beketov, editor of a newspaper in the Moscow suburb of Khimki, was found unconscious and bleeding on November 13, 2008. He lost one-third of his brain, a leg and three fingers and is unable to speak, type or walk. **Kevin McDermott** and **Larry Martz** of the OPC Freedom of the Press Committee wrote to Putin and Russian President Dmi-

This month's column was written by **Al Kaff** and **Susan Kille**. If you would like to be a columnist for "People" and "New Books," e-mail aimee@opcofamerica.org.

Susan Kille has worked for The New York Times Co. in various roles for more than 30 years in print and online news as a reporter and editor. She is now editor-at-large for the New York Times Syndicate. She is awed by the legacy of Al Kaff and asks that OPC members help with the transition by sending news tips to susan@opcofamerica.org.

tri Medvedev on November 2, writing in part: "the announcement that Mikhail Beketov will be a recipient of the Prime Minister's annual award for excellence in journalism seems to us an exercise in cynicism and hypocrisy... . At the same time, we applaud the courage of the journalists who nominated him."

NEW YORK: Dan Frommer, a technology writer who co-founded *Business Insider* but who is now an independent journalist, discovered journalists working alone don't qualify for the Google News index. When Frommer applied to have his website added to the Google News index, he received this reply: "We don't include sites that are written and maintained by one individual... ."

OCCUPY MOVEMENT

Journalists have been arrested and roughed up while reporting at Occupy Wall Street demonstrations across the U.S. In New York, Internet bloggers and posters for social networks have been prevented from acting as journalists on the grounds that they lack a press card. **Larry Martz**, chairman of the OPC's Freedom of the Press Committee and **Jeremy Main** wrote a letter to New York Mayor Bloomberg in response to the clearing of Zuccotti Park and the media being banned "to protect members of the press": Mr. Mayor,

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that is a protection journalists neither seek nor welcome.”

Martz has started a forum posing the debate: Who is a journalist? OPC members are invited to log in to opcofamerica.org and join the discussion. Your username is your first and last name, eg.: John Doe. Your password can be retrieved by clicking on the link “Reset Password” in the top right-hand corner of every web page and entering the e-mail address on file with the OPC.

PARIS: The office of a French satirical weekly *Charlie Hebdo* was destroyed by a firebomb November 1 after publishing an issue titled *Sharia Hebdo* that included a cartoon of the Prophet Muhammad with the headline, “100 lashes if you don’t die of laughter!” Two weeks later, no arrests were made and some French Muslim groups came out in support of the *Charlie Hebdo* and free speech.

SANTIAGO: Within a few days in the beginning of November, a homemade bomb exploded outside the headquarters of Copesa, the Chilean media conglomerate that publishes the national newspaper *La Tercera*, and three news websites were hacked. No injuries were reported in the early morning November 1 bombing; damage was limited to the building’s windows. **Mauricio Tolosa**, co-founder and editor of the Sitiocero website, said on November 4 hackers caused him to lose all the site’s records since June and forced him to suspend operations temporarily. Two alternative online news sites, *La Otra Voz* and *Puro Periodismo*, were attacked around the same time but sustained less damage. Chile is the scene of large student protests with demands that include more money for education. Press freedom watchers have reported cases of attacks on journalists by security forces.

MURDERS

Wael Mikhael, a cameraman

for the Coptic television broadcaster Al-Tareeq, was shot in the head and killed October 9 in Cairo as he filmed street clashes between Egyptian Christian protestors and the military.

Alhaji Zakariya Isa, a cameraman for the state-owned Nigerian Television Authority, was killed October 22 in Maiduguri, in northeast Nigeria. According to news reports, a spokesman for Boko Haram, a radical Islamist sect whose name means “Western education is forbidden,” claimed responsibility and accused Isa of being an informant for Nigerian security agencies.

Two months after Pakistani journalist **Javed Naseer Rind** was abducted near Karachi, his body was found November 5 with gunshot wounds in Khurdar. Rind was an editor and columnist with the Urdu-language daily *Daily Tawar*, which is known for its regular coverage of the region’s many conflicts between rival groups and the government.

Gelson Domingos da Silva, a Brazilian television cameraman, was killed November 6 while filming a shootout during a special forces raid that claimed the life of four alleged drug traffickers in a slum in Rio.

COLOMBO: The Sri Lankan government has told websites carrying news about the country that they must register with the Ministry of Mass Media and Information. The government said it was acting after receiving complaints of “character assassination” of the president. The BBC reported that access had been blocked to at least six news websites.

DHAKA, Pakistan: **Ekramul Haque**, a Bangladeshi editor arrested in July on extortion charges, was granted bail on October 25 by the country’s High Court. He was released from jail on November 1 but rearrested on extortion charges the same day. His original arrest shuttered his newspaper and website, which was accused of “character assassinations” against the government.

Overseas Press Club Foundation

Annual Scholarship Luncheon
Friday, February 17, 2012

Keynote Speaker
Jeff Fager
Chairman, CBS
News and Executive
Producer of
“60 Minutes”



Grand Ballroom, Yale Club
50 Vanderbilt Avenue
New York City

Reception: 11:30 a.m.
Luncheon: Noon to 2 p.m.

Benefactor Table: \$8,000
Patron Table: \$5,000
Friend Table: \$2,000

OPC Members: \$75
Non-members: \$125

For tickets contact: Jane Reilly at
foundation@opcofamerica.org
201-493-9087

LIMA, Peru: **Feliciano Gutiérrez Sucam**, a correspondent for the daily *La República*’s in the southern city of Juliaca, was shot in the leg on November 5 while resisting a kidnapping attempt that news reports said appears to have been prompted by a story he wrote implicating the local police in contraband activities. Gutiérrez was shot in the leg twice during a struggle.

NEW YORK: When **Ruth Gruber** turned 100 years old on September 30 the OPC Board unanimously granted her Honorary status for her long-term commitment to the Club. Gruber is a prolific writer of 20 books and several of them were OPC Book Nights. In 2009 she received the first Fay Gillis Wells Award for an outstanding woman journalist.

World Press Photo and Human Rights Watch on November 7 awarded **Stephen Ferry**, an American photographer based in Colombia, the first **Tim Hetherington** Grant, established to honor the life and work of the award-winning photojournalist and filmmaker killed in April while covering the war in Libya. Judges looked for qualities that defined Hetherington's career: work in multiple platforms that mixes breaking news and investigation and that demonstrates a moral commitment. Ferry's winning project, "Violentology: A Manual of the Colombian Conflict," examines the long-running guerilla wars in Colombia.



Silva crosses the finish line.

Joao Silva, a photographer who lost both legs in a land mine explosion in Afghanistan in October 2010, finished New York City Marathon in 2 hours 38 minutes 14 seconds, placing 52nd in the handcycle division. "If you'd asked me a year ago if I was going to run a marathon," he told a *The New York Times* colleague, "I'd look at you like you were crazy."

OPC Board member **Seymour Topping** invites OPC members to a lecture at 6 p.m. Dec. 7 in Room 523 of the Butler Library at Columbia University. A reception follows. Topping is donating his papers to the Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Columbia and will mark the occasion by speaking on "China Faces the U.S.; From Mao in Yenan, to Korea, Vietnam, and Challenges Today."

RANGOON: A Rangoon court added 10 years to the sentence of Burmese journalist **Sithu Zeya**, bringing his total sentencing to 18 years. Zeya, 21, a photographer with the Democratic Voice of Burma, was first sentenced to eight years in prison for photographing an April 2010 bomb blast in Rangoon under the Unlawful Association and Immigration Acts. A Rangoon court ruled on September 14 that Zeya's online activities violated the Electronics Act and threatened to "damage the tranquility and unity in the government," and the court increased his sentence.

SOFIA, Bulgaria: A one-kilo explosive device was detonated October 13 under the car of **Sasho Dikov**, a sports reporter and political columnist. The car was parked in front of his house, but Dikov was not in the car. Program director of the private TV channel Kanal 3, Dikov has been critical of the government.

VIENNA, Austria: **Mariela Hoyer Guerrero** was named by the International Press Institute as press freedom adviser for Latin America and the Caribbean. Hoyer, a Venezuelan, has spent most of her journalism career in Caracas with *El Nacional*, an independent daily newspaper.

WASHINGTON D.C.: **Viola Drath**, an OPC member, was found dead in her Georgetown home on August 11. Her husband, Albrecht Gero Muth, was charged with the murder. *The Washington Post* reported that the death "was the end of a difficult and sometimes violent marriage."

Drath, 91, was born in Germany and moved to the U.S. after marrying U.S. Army Col. Francis S. Drath, who died in 1986. In 1989, she married Muth who was 44 years younger. Drath was a journalist, author and prominent figure in German-American relations. She worked for *Handelsblatt*; *The Washington Times*; and wrote a biography of German Chancellor Willy Brandt.

During the 16th round of U.S.-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue, U.S. officials said concerns over Vietnamese restrictions on media and other human rights issues are an obstacle to a strategic alliance between the former foes. A letter from a rights groups said Vietnam has imposed tighter restrictions on the press. The coalition asked the government to extend amnesty to all political prisoners and to 21 jailed journalists and bloggers, including **Vu Duc Trung** and **Le Van Thanh**, who are citizen radio journalists and received prison sentences in November.

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Hal Bruno, who retired in 1999 as political director of ABC News and host of a weekly radio program, died November 8 in Bethesda, Maryland. He was 83. Before joining ABC in 1978, he worked 18 years for *Newsweek*, where he worked as a reporter, foreign correspondent, news editor and chief political correspondent. Bruno won a Fulbright scholarship to India, where he also worked for the International News Service. He spent most of his life as a volunteer fireman and became an authority on fire safety.

Robert Pierpoint, 86, a CBS correspondent, died October 22 in Santa Barbara, California. He became a foreign correspondent for CBS in 1951 and after covering the Korean War, served as the CBS Far Eastern bureau chief in Tokyo until he was named State Department correspondent in 1980.

His Korea reporting was featured on **Edward R. Murrow's** first "See It Now" and his voice reporting the Korean cease-fire for CBS Radio was used in the final "M*A*S*H" episode.

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George L. Sherry, 87, a former reporter for *The New York Times* who was best known for his four-decade career working for the United Nations, died October 21 in Manhattan. Sherry became editor for the U.N. publications in 1946 and used his language skills as an extemporaneous translator of speeches by Russian diplomats in the U.N.'s early days.



Norman Corwin, 101, who reported from Europe during World War II and was a prolific writer and producer for CBS in the 1930s and 1940s, died October 18 at his home in Los Angeles. During the war, he delivered reports from Britain and the Soviet Union in the radio series "An American in England," produced by **Edward R. Murrow**, and "An American in Russia."

CORRECTION: The November *Bulletin* ran a photo identifying **Bernard Redmont** with his son. The man with Redmont was **Christophe Guilhou**, the Consul General of France.

Coming up...

IMAX Movie:
Mission Impossible 4:
Ghost Protocol
December 15
6:45 p.m.

See page 1 for details

Save the Date:
OPC Scholarship
Luncheon, February 17
See page 10 for details

Al Kaff Obituary:

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Pakistan; and supervising a multinational staff of 300 persons.

During 1983, his last full year as Asia-Pacific manager, the division's gross income was \$5.9 million against expenses of \$4.4 million while other UPI divisions were losing money. From 1984 to 1985, Kaff was vice president of UPI's New York division. He retired from UPI in 1985 at age 65.

From 1986 to 1993, he worked in the Cornell News Service, the public relations department of Cornell University, first as managing editor and then as business and international editor. Kaff contributed chapters to several books: "How I Got That Story" [NY: Dutton 1967], "Eyewitness on Asia" [Hong Kong: Foreign Correspondents Club of Hong Kong, 1997] and "Foreign Correspondents in Japan" [Tokyo: Tuttle, 1998]. He edited Bill Shinn's book *The Forgotten War Remembered: Korea 1950-1953* [Elizabeth, NJ: Hollym International, 1996].

Kaff and Cornell Finance Professor Avner Arbel wrote *Crash: Ten Days in October...Will It Strike Again?* [Chicago: Longman 1989], an account of the 1987 stock market crash. A Japanese translation of "Crash" was published by Kodansha in Tokyo in 1990. In its March 15, 1990, issue, the *Library Journal*, pub-



Gen. Mark Clark and Al in Korea, 1953.

lished in New York, selected *Crash* as one of "the 65 business books of 1989 that might make the difference in your business collection."

Kaff is a past president of the FCCs in Taipei, Tokyo, and Hong Kong; and past vice president of the Manila Overseas Press Club, the OPC and the Ithaca Press Club. He was a trustee of the OPC Foundation. In Tokyo, he served on the vestry and was warden of St. Alban's Anglican-Episcopal Church. He and his wife Diana are parents of Arthur, of Bel Air, MD, and Alban, of Brooklyn, NY. He has four grandchildren.

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